



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: March 29, 2006

Release Number: 06-05

Contact: Melende Ward

(559) 487-5791, ext 143

Reese Davies Named As SBA 2006 Central California Financial Services Champion of the Year Small Business Week April 9-15



Pictured: Reese Davies

San Luis Obispo, CA – Reese Davies, President of First Bank of San Luis Obispo, a division of Pacific Capital Bank, N.A. has been selected to receive the 2006 Central California Financial Services Champion of the Year Award by the U. S. Small Business Administration.

Carlos G. Mendoza, District Director of the U. S. Small Business Administration said, "Davies is an extremely knowledgeable and resourceful lender which has been a real benefit to the small business community. Capital access is a must for small businesses to succeed and through Davies' lending efforts since the early 1980's small businesses located throughout the coastal area have grown and prospered. We are fortunate to have First Bank of San Luis Obispo as a lending partner."

Under the leadership of Davies, First Bank of San Luis Obispo has approved 187 SBA loans to assist businesses for a total of \$43.3 million in loan dollars since 2001. The bank specializes in the SBA 7(a) lending program. The SBA 7(a) lending program is most commonly used for funding working capital, real estate, machinery and equipment for start up and expanding businesses.

Champion awards are presented by SBA as part of National Small Business Week celebrated nationally, April 9-15. Nominations for this award were solicited from throughout the 15-county Central California area and from all sectors of the public. Individuals who assist small businesses in obtaining financing, either directly or through advocacy efforts to increase the availability of financial services may be nominated. Selection criteria for the award are based on the following:

- Outside of regular business duties, the amount and quality of assistance given small businesses in obtaining financing.
- Advocacy of changes in the financial services industry to assist small companies.
- Encouragement of the flow of investment capital to small ventures.
- Active support for legislative or regulatory action designed to help small firms.
- Other significant contributions through the financial services or accounting industries to advance small business interests.

-the end-